

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUIS DANIEL CONDE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Luis Daniel Conde of Haines City, Florida. Luis was a resident of my district whose life was cut short in the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016, in Orlando.

Luis was a talented makeup artist and owned a beauty salon with his partner of 16 years, Juan Rivera Velazquez. Luis and Juan were partners in business and in life. They grew up in the same small town in Puerto Rico, and even attended the same school, Jose Campeche High School in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico.

At their salon, Juan created hairstyles, while Luis—never the shy one—touched up clients' make-up and kept the techno music playing. Former clients and friends remember them as wonderful people who loved helping others and frequently provided their services free of charge to women who were victims of domestic violence. It was widely known that they loved people and lived to help others.

Luis Daniel was 39 years old. He died alongside Juan the night of the shooting.

Luis will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world. His memory and acts of kindness will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

May his family, friends and relatives eventually find solace and comfort and may he rest in eternal peace.

CONGRATULATING THE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, or TERC, at the University of California Davis on its 10th anniversary. For the past decade, TERC has been a global leader in research, education and public outreach about the Lake Tahoe Basin and other similar systems across the world.

Their work has never been more urgent: Lake Tahoe is one of the most famous destinations in the United States, and draws millions of visitors from around the world for hiking, water sports, skiing, and so many other recreational activities. But increased development and a higher number of residents and tourists have damaged the environment of the Tahoe Basin and sharply reduced Lake Tahoe's world-renowned clarity. In fact, the lake has lost a third of its transparency over the past 30 years.

The University of California at Davis, whose campus is situated in my Congressional District, is no stranger to studying Lake Tahoe: 58 years ago, UC Davis pioneered conducting scientific research at Lake Tahoe, and was the first institution to sound the alarm about the damage being done to the Tahoe Basin's sensitive ecosystem. The work done by UC Davis and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center has been essential to keeping Tahoe blue.

Congratulations to the TERC on its 10th anniversary and all the work it has done to preserve the natural beauty and ecological diversity of the Tahoe Basin.

THE IMMORALITY OF INACTION: CONGRESS CANNOT REMAIN SILENT ON VOTING RIGHTS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Restoration Tuesday to highlight and recognize the positive strides made by elected officials in support of equal voting rights.

Several states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Oregon and Vermont have passed laws establishing automatic voter registration. In these states across the country, when a citizen comes in contact with the DMV they are automatically registered to vote unless they actively decline. In April of this year, Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia ordered voting rights restored to 206,000 ex-convicts in Virginia. This year, Virginia joined over 20 states that have helped diminish the stigma of disenfranchisement from citizens who have served their sentences and paid their debts to society.

These leaders faced harsh public criticism and were targeted by the media. These were not popular efforts.

Mr. Speaker, may I remind my fellow colleagues that we are not here for a popularity contest. We are here to serve the people of America. We are here to support democracy, justice, fairness and equality for all. We cannot and must not continue to sit idly by and do nothing. Last year, I introduced a bill, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 to answer the call the Supreme Court gave Congress in 2013 after the Shelby v. Holder ruling that called for for a modern day formula to determine federal enforcement. It has been three years since the Supreme Court ruling. It has been over a full year since I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Inaction on the cause of voting rights has now become "business as usual" and this cannot continue. We can no longer be afraid to lead and stand for what is right.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best when he stated "history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad

people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

The silence of Congress on the fundamental right to vote is no less than appalling. Political equality is good for everyone. What are we afraid of? Why do we continue to do nothing?

The flood of suppressive voting laws continue to flow from every corner of our country and the tide is only getting higher. Our silence only silences the voices and vote of the American people. We can and must do better.

FAA EXTENSION, SAFETY, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this extension to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This measure is the product of dedicated bipartisan work. For that, I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO—and, from across the Capitol, Senator THUNE and Senator NELSON. I am pleased that we included some time-sensitive and safety- and security-critical measures in this legislation. Passing this extension is the right thing to do for the safety and security of the American traveling public.

In addition, I am pleased that the legislation directs the FAA to continue moving forward on safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and directs the Department of Transportation to move forward on a long-overdue rule to better assist disabled travelers.

However, there are many important bipartisan provisions that regrettably did not make the cut. I stand by my remarks regarding the first extension in September as well as the extension we passed in March. We did not have to go down this road.

Because of a desire to privatize the nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, some critical pieces of the legislation have been tied up.

We could have been here on the Floor today with a long-term reauthorization bill that took a comprehensive approach to addressing the pressing needs of the FAA, aviation safety and air travel. Mr. Speaker, if you ask 10 aviation stakeholders to identify the area of the FAA most in need of reform, I would venture to say most if not all 10 of them would say, "certification."

Both the House and Senate long-term FAA bills included far-reaching reforms to streamline the FAA certification process that would help U.S. manufacturers become more competitive, expand their global presence and create jobs in the United States.

The certification reforms that have bipartisan and bicameral support would have immediate benefits in my home state of Washington—where aviation manufacturing is a significant economic driver—as well as for the entire U.S. economy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

They would improve safety by permitting manufacturers to deliver newer and safer technology to the market more quickly.

Yet this legislation omits most of those reforms. That is a critical and unfortunate omission, in my view.

In addition, this legislation fails to synchronize flight attendant rest rules with pilot rest rules. Synchronizing these rules would enable flight attendants to receive the rest they need and further improve the safety and security of the flying public.

And while it falls outside the jurisdiction of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I have serious concerns about expanding the look-back period to fifteen years for current and prospective airport employees.

I said back in February, when T&I marked up a controversial long-term FAA reauthorization, that I feared we were in for more serial extensions.

All Democrats and two Republicans voted against that bill because of its science experiment with air traffic control privatization. But the rest of the bill had strong bipartisan support, and instead of enacting another extension, we could be here to enact meaningful reforms that aviation stakeholders need.

So it is with disappointment that I am here to support a temporary extension.

HONORING MS. NANCY WATT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Watt for her 19 years of public service with Napa County, California, including 12 years as the Napa County Executive Officer, as she moves onto the next stage of her career.

A native of Los Gatos, California, Ms. Watt earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, and then returned to the Bay Area and graduated with a Master's in Public Administration from Sonoma State University.

Ms. Watt began her career with Napa County as a Management Analyst in 1997, before becoming the Assistant County Administrator in 1999. Her success and leadership in these roles led to her appointment as County Executive Officer in 2004, making her the first woman to hold that position in Napa County.

Throughout her career, Ms. Watt has been an outstanding and inspiring public servant. As Executive Officer, she has led Napa County through challenging times including the Great Recession, the South Napa Earthquake, and the Valley Fire. Her integrity, keen judgment, and commitment to fairness kept the county moving and ensured its government met the needs of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Watt has dedicated nearly two decades to serving Napa County and has set an inspiring example of devoted public service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF YILMARY RODRIGUEZ SOLIVAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Yilmory Rodriguez Solivan, a resident of my district who lived in Kissimmee, Florida. Yilmory's life was cut short during the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, June 12, 2016.

Yilmory was married to race-car driver Juan Borges and was a mother of two, including a three-month-old son, Sergio. She worked at a Wendy's in Puerto Rico before moving to Florida.

Yilmory was enjoying a night out at Pulse with her friend Jonathan Camuy and her brother-in-law, William Borges. The group decided to go to a gay club because they believed them to be safer after an incident at another club. Before a gunman opened fire, Yilmory had smiled into a camera, posing for a photo with her brother-in-law and friend. Jonathan died trying to protect his friend Yilmory. She was 24 years old.

Yilmory Rodriguez Solivan will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world. Her memory and acts of kindness will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew her.

May her family, relatives and friends eventually find solace and comfort, and may she rest in eternal peace.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD ABSOLUTE SPEED RECORD SET BY THE SR-71

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the World Absolute Speed Record flight by the Lockheed SR-71 'Blackbird,' one of the greatest achievements in aviation history. Even today, the 2,193 mph record set by the SR-71 'Blackbird' is still recognized by the World Air Sports Federation as the fastest humans have travelled during a sanctioned world record flight.

As the Representative from Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, I am deeply honored that a machine as magnificent as this aircraft rests alongside the Global Hawk and the U2 at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Georgia. The SR-71 'Blackbird' flew for the first time on December 22, 1964. This aircraft, which could fly faster than the speed of a bullet at altitudes greater than 80,000 feet, remained the fastest and highest flying aircraft for the duration of its thirty five year career. The SR-71 'Blackbird' served crucial roles in the areas of combat, reconnaissance, and research for the United States. Due to its unmatched speed, altitude, and state-of-the-art stealth capabilities, the SR-71 'Blackbird' was integral in providing strategic advantages during the Vietnam War, the Yom Kippur War, and the Cold War. It also enabled the United States to conduct vital surveillance missions

over countries such as Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, North Korea, and China during periods of unrest.

I would like to thank the crew of the record breaking flight, Captain Eldon Joersz and Major George Morgan Jr., for their service to the United States and their role in marking the SR-71 'Blackbird's' place in history. I would also like to thank the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Georgia for making it possible for visitors from around the country to see this great symbol of American innovation.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MR. NEAL W. ALLEN, III

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant who has significantly contributed to Maine and our communities for more than forty years.

This July, Neal W. Allen will be retiring as the Executive Director of the Greater Portland Council of Governments after 18 years. In this role, he has led a regional planning organization that provides support to communities across Southern Maine around municipal services, transportation & land use, economic development, sustainability, housing, and many other issues that impact people in their daily lives.

At the Council of Governments, Mr. Allen led major initiatives around sound governance of the organization, along with the establishment of its Sustainability Principles. Those Principles opened new opportunities for the region, including a federal HUD Sustainability grant that involved more than 40 partners from Kittery to Brunswick. The Sustainability Principles also formed a basis for the Council's energy planning, electric vehicles initiatives, and designation in the U.S. Commerce Department's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership.

Following service in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam era, Mr. Allen's career in Maine began in the 1970s, as an Assistant City Manager in Portland. Among other contributions to the City, he played a key role in establishing Portland's ambulance service, Medcu, the first of its kind in Maine. He then went on to serve the City through a variety of challenging issues as Acting City Manager and later, as the first Executive Director of the waste management organization that is now named Eco Maine. That program resulted in the closing of numerous open burning landfills and the establishment of a regional system for managing solid waste. Along the way, Mr. Allen served as Governor and U.S. Senator in various roles, and was the co-recipient, along with former Governor Joseph Brennan, of the State of Maine Award in 1983.

This is just a small sampling of the many ways that Neal Allen made our region better. This career is reflective of his commitment to public service and to the notion that practical, local collaboration can make a big difference in the daily lives of people in our communities. I doubt that this retirement will be the last word on his contributions to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I truly admire Mr. Allen for his long and devoted service to Maine, and would